

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01501 172303Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 172035Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7085

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1501

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ

REF: A) BOGOTA 1382 B) STATE 29079

1. PRESIDENT LOPEZ ACCEPTS PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION FOR STATE VISIT. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A VISIT STRUCTURED TO BE SIMPLE WITH AS LITTLE CEREMONY AND PROTOCOL AS POSSIBLE AND LONG ON BUSINESS. HE SAID HE WOULD PREFER A DATE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR, IE, SEPTEMBER OR LATER. I PROMISED TO PROVIDE SOONEST SPECIFIC DATES FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

2. HE PREFERRED THIS TIMING FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, HE WILL BE BUSY THIS SUMMER WITH CONVENING OF ORDINARY SESSIONS OF COLOMBIAN CONGRESS (STARTING IN JULY). SECONDLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TWO MATTERS ON WHICH HE IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THE VISIT. HE HAS DECIDED TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH PANAMA RE COLOMBIAN RIGHTS IN CANAL TRAFFIC AND A VARIETY OF "SECURITY AND ECONOMIC MEASURES". (THIS IS BEING REPORTED IN SEPARATE TEL). HE IS ALSO BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS WITH TEMYCO ON OIL PRICES AND JOINT VENTURES ABOUT WHICH HE HAD TALKED TO AMB MAILLARD (BOGOTA 770) AND ABOUT WHICH HE FELT OPTIMISTIC. HE WOULD LIKE THESE THINGS OUT OF THE WAY SO HE COULD TALK ABOUT OTHER THINGS DURING HIS VISIT.

3. AS TO ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE IT PERSONALLY IN A TELEVISION SPEECH HE IS MAKING TO THE NATION
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THURSDAY, FEB 20, (PRESUMABLY IN THE EVENING BUT HE DID NOT HAVE

AN HOUR YET). THE "FIRESIDE CHAT" WOULD REPORT TO THE NATION ON VARIOUS THINGS, INCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA AND THE ENERGY PROBLEM. SINCE HE WILL ANNOUNCE THAT HE IS REQUESTING CONGRESSIONAL PERMISSION TO VISIT PANAMA SHORTLY, PRESUMABLY TO SIGN WHATEVER AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED, HE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE NATION THAT AT A LATER DATE HE WOULD ALSO BE REQUESTING CONGRESSIONAL PERMISSION TO VISIT THE US TO FILL AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT FORD FOR A STATE VISIT LATER IN THE YEAR ON A DATE TO BE AGREED UPON. I SAID I WOULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS ANY OBJECTION FROM WASHINGTON TO THIS TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS. HE ASKED ME TO TELEPHONE HIM AS SOON AS I COULD. I INDICATED THAT WE WOULD THEN MAKE A PARALLEL ANNOUNCEMENT, SAYING THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED AND ACCEPTED FOR A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IN THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR TO BE AGREED UPON. HE SAID FINE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM PRES LOPEZ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT WE AGREE TO HIS MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT PERSONALLY ON FEB 20 IN HIS SPEECH.

VAKY

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NNN

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